

RESPONSE/ARGUMENTS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Applicant has canceled claims 1, 11, and 21, and has amended claims 2, 12, and 22. Claims 2-10, 12-20, and 22-29 remain pending in the present application.

Applicant has presented arguments below that Applicant believes should render the claims allowable. In the event, however, that the Examiner is not persuaded by Applicant's arguments, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the amendment and remarks to clarify issues upon appeal.

For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are allowable. Consequently, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue of the present application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-29 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. More particularly, the Examiner asserts that the Applicant did not define the attributes of the claimed "opaque data types" in claims 1, 11 and 20 and thus, the claimed features are indefinite.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. The phrase "opaque data type" is well understood in the art, evidence of which is shown by its inclusion in various Informix Software, Inc. publications, including *Extending IUS: Data Types, version 9.1*

Copyright © 1998, Informix Software, Inc. All rights reserved, specifically, Chapter 5, Creating an Opaque Data Type, a copy of which is available at the Internet address, www-306.ibm.com/software/data/informix/pubs/library/datablade/dbdk/extend/05.fm1.html. Applicant has included a copy of the first page of this website with this response for the Examiner's convenience. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention, including

the phrase 'opaque data type', is definite. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Applicant appreciates and respectfully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 2-10, 12-20, and 22-29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicant has amended claims 2, 12, and 22 to be of independent form. Their respective parent claims 1, 11, and 21 have been canceled. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 12, and 22 are in condition for allowance. Applicant further respectfully submits that claims 3-10, 13-20, and 23-29 depend on one of amended claims 2, 12, or 22, and thus are in condition for allowance for at least those reasons associated with claims 2, 12, or 22.

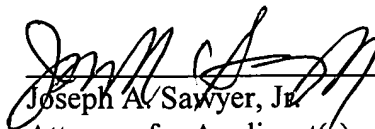
Further, with the cancellation of claims 1, 11, and 21, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is now moot.

Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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